

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

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DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AGR-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

COME-00 /094 W

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4333

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION USUN NY

CINCLANT

CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, AO

SUBJ: ANGOLA ROUNDUP - OCTOBER 16

1. MPLA LEADERS' VISIT TO UN. LOCAL PRESS CARRIED A STATEMENT BY MPLA MINISTER OF PLANNING & FINANCE, SAYDI MINGAS ON OCTOBER 16 ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE UN. MINGAS STATED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE MPLA DELEGATION'S UN TRIP WAS TO EXPRESS THE VIEWS OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE CONCERNING ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, NOVEMBER 11. MINGAS DISPARAGED THE "DEMAGOGIC SPEECHES" MADE BY "SO-CALLED LEADERS OF SO-CALLED LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" AND ADDED THAT PORTUGAL'S VIEWS ON ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE WERE OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE.

2. MPLA ADMITS MILITARY SETBACKS. MPLA STATEMENTS ON MILITARY SITUATION CARRIED IN OCTOBER 16 PRESS ADMITTED LOSS OF CAXITO

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AND UCUA (ON CARMONA ROAD) TO FNLA. STATEMENT ALSO CLAIMED

THAT ON NORTHERN FRONT PIRI CONTINUED TO BE CONTESTED AND THAT MPLA FORCES HAD RETAKEN THE VILLAGE OF BANGO OCTOBER 14 AND CONTINUED IN CONTROL OF CAGE, SANTA EULALIA, MUCONDO, AND PANGO; ALSO THAT MPLA FORCES HAD TAKEN QUIBALA ON THE CENTRAL FRONT. SAME STATEMENT REPORTED THAT MPLA FORCES, WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED TO HAVE KILLED 60 UNITA TROOPS IN A BATTLE NEAR LUSO OCTOBER 14, LOST TWO COMMANDERS IN THAT BATTLE. STATEMENT EULOGIZES THE TWO COMMANDERS AND EMPHASIZES THE INEVITABILITY OF DEFEATS AS WELL AS VICTORIES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THEIR ENEMY.

3. MPLA CLAIMS ZAIRIAN INVOLVEMENT. MPLA STATEMENT MENTIONED PARA 2 ALSO CLAIMS THAT ITS FORCES CAPTURE A ZAIRIAN AIRCRAFT AND ITS CREW AT KAMISSOMO, ON THE EASTERN FRONT; AND THAT ON THE NORTHERN FRONT MPLA TROOPS CONTINUE TO CLASH WITH FORCES COMPOSED OF REGULAR ZAIRIAN ARMY TROOPS AND LED BY PORTUGUESE, SOUTH AFRICAN, AND OTHER MERCENARIES. MPLA HAD PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED THAT ITS TROOPS HAD ON OCTOBER 13 DEFEATED A FORCE OF 200 MERCENARIES AND ZAIRIAN REGULARS NEAR SAMBA CAJU ON THE CARMONA ROAD, KILLING 26.

4. OAU COMMISSION. THE OAU COMMISSION CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THE ANGOLAN SITUATION VISITED CABINDA OCTOBER 14. LAUNDA PRESS REPORTS THAT THE COMMISSION SPOKE WITH SEVERAL CAPTURED "MERCENARIES". ADDRESSING THE COMMISSION, AN MPLA CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER DECLARED THAT THE MPLA HAD NO DESIRE TO UNITE WITH THE OTHER TWO LIERATION MOVEMENTS. THE PRECEDING DAY, MPLA PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO, MET WITH THE COMMISSION AND TOLD THEM THAT THE MPLA WOULD NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF ANY LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA OTHER THAN THE MPLA.

5. ECONOMIC. THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA HAS ISSUED A DECREE BANNING THE CLOSURE OF COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND HOTELS WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHOGIZATION. THE DECREE STATES THAT THE ACTION IS NECESSITATED BY THE WIDESPREAD CLOSURE OF BUSINESSES RECENTLY, AND PROVIDES THAT ALL SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS MUST, BY OCTOBER 20, EITHER REOPEN OR PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR REMAINING CLOSED.

6. THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY IS IN THE PROCESS OF FORMING A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEE TO THE AREAS OF ANGOLA OUTSIDE OF LUANDA WHICH ARE UNDER MPLA CONTROL IN ORDER TO FACILITATE INCREASED SHIPMENTS OF FOOD FROM THESE AREAS TO ALLEVIATE THE SHORTAGE IN LUANDA.

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